

War Correspondent's Diary Tells of Landing in Africa And Battling for Footholds

BY JOHN A. PARRIS

(United Press Staff Correspondent)

Nov. 9.—6 a. m.—Aboard a big American troop ship anchored off the sprawling dun-colored village of Arzew. A blood-red African sun slices up through the hills in the east. The beaches have been cleared of their dead, but the distant roll of gunfire crawls across the rolling hills like a muffled whisper. Back behind those hills where we're going there's still plenty of fighting. I wonder what the day will bring.

6:30 a. m.—We stand at boat stations. A landing barge tosses in the troubled sea below.

6:45 a. m.—We board the landing barges and plow across the harbor to shore where I pile into an American ambulance just as a sniper's bullet pings overhead. Capt. Charles Crathern, Worcester, Mass., steps on the starter and we move off into the hills toward the village of St. Lou.

8:20.—St. Lou is filled with American soldiers and gaudily dressed Arabs. A radio message comes through saying the Tafarout airdrome is being held by about 50 American pilots and paratroopers who need reinforcements urgently—a French Foreign Legion armored column is moving north toward them. Our armored column lines up and prepares to pave the way for a couple hundred of Brig. Gen. Jimmy Doolittle's air commandos who are going to relieve the hard-pressed garrison. But I can't find a ride.

10:00 a. m.—I finally manage to commandeer a jeep. The general puts me just back of the last tank with the commandos following. A radio message reports that the legionnaires are holding the village of St. Barbe. The general says "we have to wipe out that pocket, then we can go on to the airdrome."

10:25 a. m.—Capt. Max Boyd, Washington, D. C., and I climb into the jeep and off we go. Mile after mile of tree-lined road passes. We stop often to listen for gunfire. Just outside St. Barbe, the column comes to a halt.

1:45 p. m.—A lone tank goes into the town, only to find that the Spitfires beat us to it—they knocked out 20 to 50 French tanks and 25 troop lorries. The rest of the French garrison appeared to have retreated southward. We enter the town.

2:30 p. m.—Villagers crowd our column. One asks: "You have any more tanks?" Maj. Don Coster (38 Central Air Group, South), New York City, replied: "Thousands—some so big they have to go around such little towns as this."

3:10 p. m.—We move on. Just outside St. Barbe we find our advanced tanks dispersed in the fields. Suddenly, there's a great blast in the road just ahead. A French .75 battery on a nearby hill has got our range.

3:25 p. m.—We turn and head our jeep back to town, but not before we see a Spitfire wing over the hill and blow up the battery with machinegun fire.

4:05 p. m.—A dirty, weary pilot hails us from the side of the road. A French anti-aircraft battery had just shot him down, but he managed to make a crash landing safely within 100 yards of a French column and then escape capture. He identifies himself as Maj. W. B. Avery, of Salt Lake City.

5:15 p. m.—It's dark when we arrive at the airdrome. There's no water, but we munch happily at our first food in 24 hours.

8:00 p. m.—I wrap myself in my jacket and try to go to sleep under the stars. Lieut. Carl W. Payne, Columbus, O., yells: "Parris, how would you like to be going to the Stork Club back in little old New York tonight?"

Maj. Harrison R. Thynge of New Hampshire, says "nuts to you guys. Good night."

Nov. 10.—Lieut. Roland F. Wooten, St. Stephens, S. C., drives into our camp at Doolittle's headquarters. He reports that a ground battery hit his gasoline tank and he made a forced landing in the desert.

"I have a brief chat with Doolittle after he arrives to assume command, find him unassuming and proud of his men, whom he describes as 'a grand bunch of pilots—boys who not only can fly, but who can fight.'"

I spend most of the day watching the landing and taking off of Spitfires aiding the ground forces. They are instructed not

to molest French troops fleeing the combat area. Algiers has fallen and the armistice is imminent. Oran is expected to capitulate momentarily.

Nov. 11.—Another armistice day, the first the French have been allowed to celebrate since Hitler overran their country. The mayor of St. Lou and Maj. Graham Madison, New York City, exchange greetings.

JAPANESE LEARN U. S. WAR PLANS ON VAST SCALE

Washington, Dec. 8.—(U.P.)—Sen. Elbert D. Thomas, D., Utah, in his monthly broadcast to the Japanese people on the anniversary of Pearl Harbor, said last night that the promises of President Roosevelt "to tear out by the roots the militarism which threatened the safety and peace of the whole world" is being kept.

Thomas, who spent several years in Japan, speaks Japanese and is an authority on Far Eastern affairs. He noted that the Japanese people had not been told the full truth about their military setbacks, but said that in many ways they have "felt the rumblings of the changes occurring in the war picture."

"You have surely noticed the change in the tone of your newspapers and of your radio stations," he said. "You have seen the stock markets of Tokyo and Osaka reflecting the increasing lack of confidence of your stockholders in a victory for Japan. You have heard the whispers of your Japanese friends who returned to your country recently from the United States, and who have reported that the earth-shaking war program of the United States is indeed as tremendous as it has been printed, if not more so."

ARGENTINIANS IN RALLY FOR ALLIES

Buenos Aires, Dec. 8.—(U.P.)—Cheering every mention of the United States and President and booing all references to Japan's sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, 20,000 Argentines in Luna park last night heard opponents of the government's neutrality policy urge its abandonment.

Former Foreign Minister Jose M. Cantillo told the mass rally that "we are not only here in tribute to President Roosevelt but the cause he incarnates."

"We of Argentina are on the side of the democracies and we must say so in days like these," he added, "for silence means opposition."

A similar view was voiced by former Finance Minister Federico Pinedo, who warned that Argentina might be shut off after

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USO Gift Wrapping Service Is Popular

The Christmas wrapping service for soldiers at the USO, under sponsorship of the Kiwanian Dames, is proving very popular and Saturday and Sunday saw 90 packages wrapped, according to Mrs. A. O. Bauman, chairman. Sixty more gifts were wrapped

between 7 and 10 p. m. Monday by Mrs. Walter Hoppe and Mrs. Charles Newland, assisted by Kiwanian George T. Frey, it was stated. Use Mail Tribune Want ads.

SIBELIUS 77
Helsinki, Dec. 8.—(U.P.)—(Finnish broadcast recorded by UP in New York)—Jan Sibelius, world-famous Finnish composer, celebrated his 77th birthday today. Sibelius, who is said to be working on the completion of his 8th and 9th symphonies, spent the day quietly in his snow-bound forest retreat a few miles north of Helsinki.



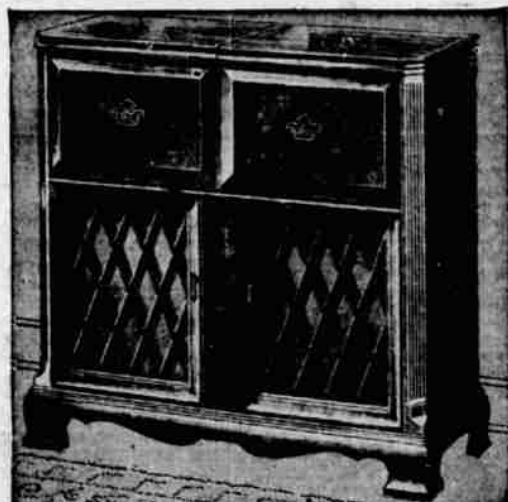
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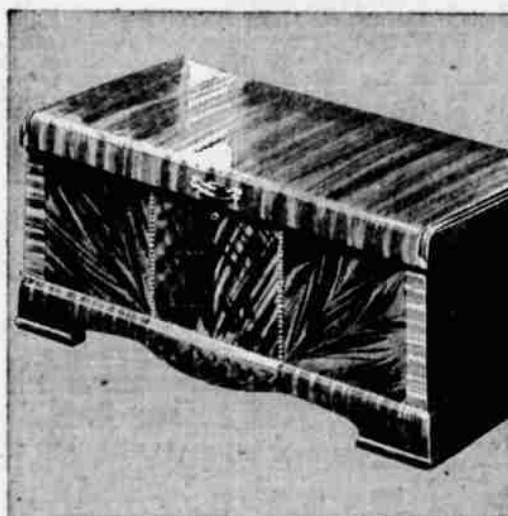
Beautifully designed 18th Century combination plays 14 records without interruption! Has a permanent sapphire needle . . . never needs changing! Feather Touch Tone Arm makes records last longer! 12-Tube radio has automatic tuning Dual Tone Control, Hi-Fidelity! Gets foreign reception! Rectifier and tuning eye included! See and hear this Airline radio marvel today!



BRIGHT CHRISTMAS ARRAY OF TABLE LAMPS 5.19

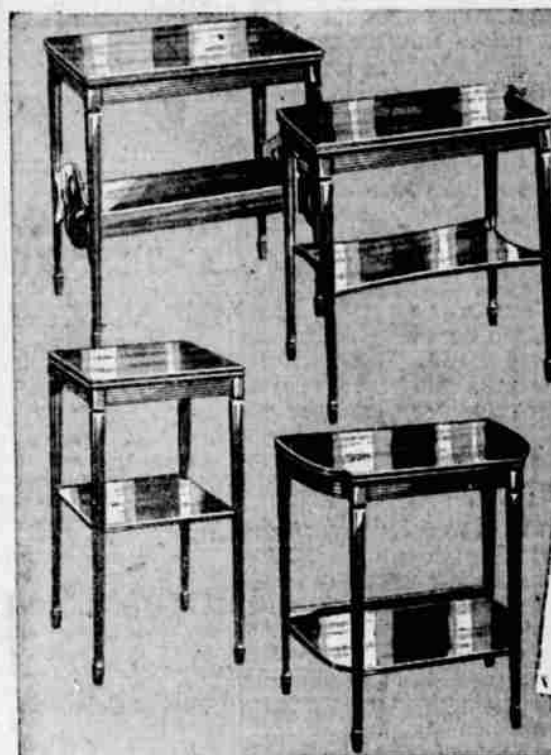
Lamps that are worth much more! Thanks to Wards policy of always giving maximum value, you can give any one of these without endangering your Christmas budget! The glass ball is hobnail glass design . . . and has a light in the base. Decorated china lamp can be used in living room or bedroom! Tilt shades for added reading comfort!

Other Glass and China Lamps (2 lamps in back) . . . 6.89



VENEERED CEDAR CHEST 34.95

High on every woman's list of Christmas "WISHES" is a cedar chest! Check the features of this modern waterfall style . . . you'll agree it's a tremendous value! Hinge permits raising lid without moving chest from wall; automatic-raising removable tray. Beautifully matched veneers; liquid-resisting finish. Full 45 inches wide! Only 20% Down on Wards Convenient Monthly Payment Plan



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VENEERED TOP DRUM TABLE

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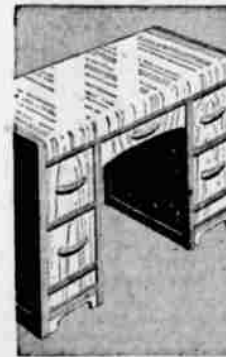
For your living room at Christmas time! 22-inch top is mahogany or walnut veneer, balance hardwood to match! Convenient drawer! Ask about Wards Monthly Payment Plan!



STURDY SAMSON CARD TABLES

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Nationally known for quality. Made with reinforced, washable, stain-resisting tops; double-braced legs. Attractive star pattern in light and dark brown. A wonderful gift ideal



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Just compare these baskets with those elsewhere selling for a good deal more! You'll realize this is outstanding value! Walnut-finished gumwood. Measures 15 by 7 1/2 by 18 inches. Handles.



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ALL WOOL PILE SCATTER RUG

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VALUE! 16" TALL STAND

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Does double duty, for the rim is big enough to hold glasses or cigarette box. Attractively styled in hardwood, walnut or mahogany finish. A popular gift priced very low. Glass tray.



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and up Add a dash of color to a room! Provide an extra seat! Handsome color combinations in artificial leather that will give long service! So low in price you'll buy for gifts! For yourself.

NOTICE HENRY'S

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Week Days and Sundays 4 to 12 P. M.

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4 P. M. to 2 A. M.

Closed Every Monday

These Hours Effective Dec. 8th